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Security Council

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Letter dated 3 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a letter of Osman Saleh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, dated 3 December 2011, addressed to you, in connection with the short notice given to Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea, to address the Security Council (see annex).

I would be most grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated among the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to bring to your attention and the attention of all members of the Security Council Eritrea's strong objection to the attempt to deny it by subterfuge its reasonable and legitimate right to address the Council in order to present pertinent facts and raise substantial issues affecting the Horn of Africa region.

For the past five weeks, the United States doggedly obstructed Eritrea's request in order to prevent the intervention of President Isaias Afwerki from having any influence on the Council's deliberations. Having undertaken a campaign of pressure and disinformation throughout that time, it sought first to impose a precipitate vote on the Security Council and when that failed, it resorted to the not-so-subtle tactic of making the President's intervention logistically impossible and rendering it a mere formality and utterly meaningless.

This action by the United States has made a mockery of the United Nations Security Council. Eritrea calls on all Council members to uphold their responsibility to defend the credibility of the Security Council and make it possible for Eritrea to meaningfully participate in its deliberations at the highest level.

Once again, Excellency, there is absolute no justification for rushing a sanctions resolution that is designed to inflict suffering on the Eritrean people and that will have grave consequences for the peoples of the Horn of Africa.

(*Signed*) Osman **Saleh**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
State of Eritrea